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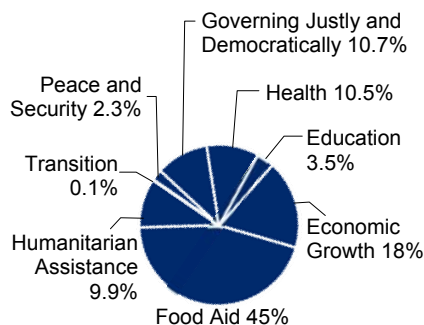
SUDAN

MONTHLY UPDATE

May 2011



USAID Assistance to Sudan FY 2010



Peace and Security	\$17.1
Governing Justly and Democratically	\$81.2
Health	\$79.6
Education	\$26.9
Economic Growth	\$136.9
Food Aid	\$371.8*
Humanitarian Assistance	\$105.7*
Transition	\$1.1
TOTAL	\$820.3

Note: Amounts in millions

* Includes eastern Chad



USAID is providing food, including sorghum shown here at Majak Aher near Turalei, Warrap State, and other emergency assistance to Sudanese displaced by fighting in the Abyei Area. Photo: Donna Kerner/USAID

USAID Responds to Abyei Crisis with Humanitarian Assistance for Displaced Sudanese

USAID and its partner organizations are locating and assisting tens of thousands of Sudanese displaced by fighting that erupted in the Abyei Area in late May.

Nearly 80,000 people have been displaced from the Abyei Area to states in southern Sudan bordering the north-south divide since May 20, according to the United Nations. As of June 1, USAID grantee the International Organization for Migration had registered 46,401 internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Warrap, Northern Bahr el Ghazal, Unity, and Western Bahr el Ghazal states.

Staff from USAID and the U.S. Consulate in Juba traveled May 26-28 to Warrap State, where the vast majority of the IDPs have been registered and verified, to assess the situation. The U.S. Government team observed registration, food distribution, and health assessment services provided to IDPs.

USAID is coordinating humanitarian activities closely with the United Nations and nongovernmental organizations. Food distribution to the displaced began May 26, and by May 31, more than 45,000 IDPs had received food aid, according to the United Nations.



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A photo released by the UN Mission in Sudan (UNMIS) shows homes burning in Abyei town on May 23. Photo: Stuart Price/UNMIS/AFP

USAID partners are also providing kits with water containers, plastic sheeting, blankets, and soap to verified IDPs in nine locations. More than 16,000 kits had been distributed by May 31.

Meanwhile, the Obama Administration is closely following developments in Sudan. During a visit to London on May 25, President Barack Obama told British lawmakers, "As increasing tensions in the Abyei region threaten to derail Sudan's Comprehensive Peace Agreement, we're working closely together to encourage the parties to recommit to a peaceful resolution to the crisis, and calling on the rapid reinforcement of the UN's peacekeeping presence in the region," he said.



A displaced woman from the Abyei Area with food provided by the American people and distributed by the UN World Food Program in Turalei, Warrap State, on May 27. Photo: Isaac Billy/UNMIS/AFP

Humanitarian organizations are facing challenges in reaching and assisting those affected by the crisis in the Abyei region, including insecurity, road closures, fuel shortages, and rainfall. Nevertheless, humanitarian agencies including USAID and its partners are responding to immediate needs of IDPs, including food, shelter, and health care. ♦



Displaced Sudanese children who fled fighting in Abyei wait for their mother to register with USAID partner the World Food Program in Turalei, Warrap State, May 27. Photo: Isaac Billy/UNMIS/AFP

USAID Partner Helps Sudanese Returning to West Darfur Village to Rebuild Homes

In the West Darfur locality of Nyoro, Sudanese displaced by conflict more than eight years ago began voluntarily returning home in January 2011. To assist their return and reintegration into their communities, USAID partner Catholic Relief Services (CRS) since early April has provided returnees with building materials and support for shelters and household latrines.

CRS is also training returnees in skills such as masonry, thereby building livelihood aptitudes while providing shelter.

"Life as a displaced person is difficult, we brought nothing," said one woman, a mother of five children. "We were forced to depend on others for food and other necessities for survival. Now we have returned back to our village, Nyoro, and everything has been



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Returnees to Nyoro, West Darfur, collect materials to build shelters for their families, with assistance from USAID partner Catholic Relief Services (CRS). Photo: CRS

destroyed,” she added. “CRS has been here to help us rebuild our shelters and provides us with latrines.”

By the end of May, CRS aimed to complete the construction of more than 735 shelters, benefiting the 3,370 individuals who had returned to Nyoro to date. ♦



Children who recently returned to Nyoro with their families in front of a home built with assistance from USAID partner CRS. Photo: CRS

Since 2003, a complex emergency in Darfur has affected more than 4.7 million people, including up to 2.7 million IDPs, according to UN agencies.

Troika Development Ministers Press for Peace, Good Governance during Joint Visit to Sudan

USAID Administrator Rajiv Shah, United Kingdom Secretary of State for International Development Andrew Mitchell, and Norway Minister of Environment and International Development Erik Solheim visited Juba together on May 7 and Khartoum on May 8 to emphasize their countries' continuing commitment to Sudan, both north and south, and their support for the development of two economically viable and peaceful states that adhere to principles of good governance, respect for human rights, and assistance to those affected by conflict, natural disaster, and population movements.



Left to right: Norway Minister of Environment and International Development Erik Solheim, USAID Administrator Rajiv Shah, Government of Southern Sudan (GOSS) President Salva Kiir Mayardit, United Kingdom Secretary of State for International Development Andrew Mitchell, and GOSS Minister in the Office of the President Cirino Hiteng Ofuho, at a press conference May 7 in Juba. Photo: GOSS

The three countries—called the Troika because of their longstanding humanitarian and development partnership with Sudan and role in brokering the 2005 Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA)—stressed the importance of good relations between northern and southern Sudan and the resolution of critical outstanding CPA issues, including the status of Abyei, before Sudan and South Sudan separate on July 9. Among their priorities in southern Sudan is promoting private sector-led economic growth, combatting corruption, and strengthening transparency in government.



Troika development ministers—Norway Minister of Environment and International Development Erik Solheim, USAID Administrator Rajiv Shah, and United Kingdom Secretary of State for International Development Andrew Mitchell—met with representatives of civil society organizations in Khartoum May 8. They also met with civil society and private sector representatives in Juba May 7 to discuss the contributions they can make to Sudan and shared concerns. Photo: Lazhar Aloui/USAID

The ministers announced their support for an international engagement conference for South Sudan, to take place in Washington in September. The conference will provide an international platform for the future Republic of South Sudan to present its vision for the country, and to engage development partners and private sector actors on priority areas for support and collaboration.

The Troika ministers also emphasized their commitment to meeting the immediate needs of conflict-affected populations in Sudan. At a press conference May 8 in Khartoum, Administrator Shah emphasized the “absolute urgency around the need to maintain humanitarian access for organizations that are providing services to those in need.”♦

USAID, Netherlands, Agriculture Organizations Announce Partnership to Boost Southern Sudan Agriculture Sector

During a visit to Sudan in early May, USAID Administrator Rajiv Shah signed a communiqué on behalf of the U.S. Government along with

representatives of the Netherlands, the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa, and the International Fertilizer Development Center, to help boost private sector engagement in agriculture in southern Sudan, where the vast majority of people rely on agriculture for their livelihood.

In spite of the agriculture sector’s enormous potential, most southern Sudanese farmers grow only enough to feed their families, but not surplus that would enable them to earn an income.

Minister of Agriculture and Forestry Dr. Anne Itto represented the Government of Southern Sudan (GOSS) at the event, which took place at the commercial Rajaf Farm near Juba. She mentioned that southern Sudan has enormous potential for agricultural development with more than 640,000 square kilometers of land, only 4 percent of which is now farmed.

Administrator Shah met Sudanese farmers during his visit, and heard from them the challenges they face in affording quality seeds and fertilizer and transporting their products to market. Because of these challenges, the agricultural yield in southern Sudan is only 0.3 to 0.5 metric tons per hectare, despite good conditions and available land. In comparison, the average yield worldwide for sorghum, for example, was 1.46 metric tons per hectare in 2009-10, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture.



USAID/Sudan Economic Growth Deputy Team Leader Carmelita Maness describes local agriculture in southern Sudan to USAID Administrator Rajiv Shah (center). At left is Government of Southern Sudan Minister of Agriculture and Forestry Dr. Anne Itto, and at right is the woman farmer whose crops the group is examining. She uses the money she earns from her crops to pay her children’s school fees. Photo: Angela Stephens/USAID



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Southern Sudan has abundant arable land, the vast bulk of which is not currently cultivated. These farmers work on the new commercial Rajaf Farm near Juba. Photo: Julie McClanahan/U.S. Consulate Juba

The signatories pledged "to work together in developing a commercial agriculture sector by increasing agricultural productivity, supporting agribusinesses, and improving agricultural research and technology."

The new partnership seeks to help develop southern Sudan's commercial agriculture sector through



Representatives of the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa, the International Fertilizer Development Center, USAID, and the Netherlands, with Minister of Agriculture and Forestry Dr. Anne Itto May 6 at Rajaf Farm outside Juba. Photo: Sarah Armstrong/USAID

expanded use of quality seed and integrated soil fertility management, development and expansion of an agro-dealer network, revitalization of local agricultural training and research centers, increasing farmers' and entrepreneurs' access to finance, and other efforts.

"Any effort to transform agriculture has to be comprehensive," Shah said. "The days of doing a small demonstration project in one part of a country and calling that agricultural development must be over," he added, a remark that prompted applause from some 100 people gathered for the event.

USAID is providing a wide array of assistance to support private sector development in southern Sudan, including investment in critical infrastructure; support to the agriculture sector; assistance to the GOSS Land Commission on a land policy for southern Sudan; helping the GOSS to streamline and harmonize taxation policies; assisting the Bank of Southern Sudan to develop banking operations and supervision responsibilities; and helping the GOSS Ministry of Investment to market and attract private capital and investors in key sectors.♦

Citizen Views Expressed in Blue Nile Popular Consultation Hearings Catalogued with USAID Support

With support from USAID and the Blue Nile State government, the Blue Nile State Popular Consultation Commission has established and staffed an information processing center in the state capital, Damazine, where statements from 112 citizen hearings held across the state earlier this year are being recorded in a database.

Forty clerks are working diligently under the bipartisan supervision of the Commission to document citizens' views on the 2005 Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA), in fulfillment of the CPA protocol that guarantees popular consultation as "a democratic right and mechanism to ascertain the views of the people of Southern Kordofan/Nuba Mountains and Blue Nile States" on the CPA, and empowers the democratically elected state legislatures to negotiate with the central government in Khartoum on "any shortcomings in the constitutional, political, and administrative arrangements of the Agreement."



Clerks enter data from public hearings of the Blue Nile State popular consultation process into a database at a USAID-supported information processing center in Damazine. Photo: AECOM International Sudan

Earlier this year, in one of the most impressive displays of democratic participation ever to be seen in Blue Nile State, more than 70,000 citizens turned out at town hall-style meetings to voice their opinions on whether the CPA has met their aspirations. These citizen hearings are part of the popular consultation process granted to Blue Nile and Southern Kordofan states under the CPA in an effort to achieve viable peace along Sudan's north-south border.

In addition to renting a processing room and purchasing equipment to facilitate data processing, USAID is providing experts to help the Commission enter data according to international best practices. USAID also supported a training course for the data entry clerks, whom the Commission selected from each of the state's localities to help prevent bias. USAID provides the clerks with a daily stipend for their work.

Once analyzed, statements from the hearings will help inform the state's elected representatives of Blue Nile citizens' prevailing views of the CPA. Residents frequently voiced concerns about development, wealth- and power-sharing, land reform and security.

In the next phase of the consultations, community representatives and state authorities are expected to convene a series of thematic hearings to discuss key issues raised during the citizen hearings. USAID has been helping Blue Nile and Southern Kordofan

prepare for the popular consultations since 2008—providing a broad range of technical and logistical support, sponsoring civic education campaigns to inform citizens about the process, and facilitating study tours to Indonesia and Kenya, which have conducted processes similar to popular consultations, for government officials and community leaders.

Preparations are underway in Southern Kordofan to launch the popular consultations as soon as the newly elected state legislature is in place. ♦

USAID Provides Support for Elections in Southern Kordofan



A woman in Southern Kordofan votes in state elections held May 2-4. Photo: Lazhar Aloui/USAID

USAID provided comprehensive support for the Southern Kordofan elections May 2-4 and processes leading up to them, including the 2010 Southern Kordofan census, electoral administration, voter education, political party participation, and election observation by international and domestic observers.

The elections fulfill a requirement of the 2005 Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA), and are a prerequisite for the popular consultation process in Southern Kordofan, another critical milestone of the CPA. The Carter Center, supported by USAID and a community of donors, said the elections "were generally peaceful and credible" and that "voting, counting, and results aggregation processes were conducted in a nonpartisan and transparent manner under intense scrutiny from leading political parties." ♦



Training for Youth at Risk of Conflict in Southern Kordofan Offers Income-Generating Skills



Graduates of the Muglad block making training program in Southern Kordofan. Photo: AECOM International Sudan

To provide youth at risk of becoming engaged in conflict with skills for generating income, USAID recently supported the community of Muglad, Southern Kordofan, in purchasing two soil block making machines and offered a month-long training in brick making and small business management to 20 youth from the Muglad area.

Muglad, a town in western Southern Kordofan state, is largely inhabited by the Misseriya, a group that has for generations lived a semi-nomadic existence, and whose primary source of income has been the cattle they raise. The increasing scarcity of water resources and grazing land has led to more conflict with communities living along the Misseriya's traditional migratory routes further south, and has increased the need to diversify livelihoods and find alternative sources of income.

Blocks needed for construction of various structures are in great demand in Muglad. They are also an environmentally friendly alternative to commonly used construction materials that exacerbate desertification, such as burnt bricks and wood. Soil block making holds the potential to be a sustainable economic activity for the town's residents. The students had more than 4,000 blocks ready for sale as the training came to a close in April, with each block fetching the equivalent of roughly 50 cents.

"I think this is a unique experience," said one of the trainees—one that will "affect the way that local

construction takes place. We hope to improve our community."♦

Providing Youth with Alternatives to Conflict and Strengthening Local Authorities in Pibor, Jonglei State



Youth in Pibor, Jonglei State, gather for the ceremony marking the May 3 inauguration of the new county headquarters building, rehabilitated by local youth trained through a USAID program. Photo: Sarah Armstrong/USAID

USAID and Jonglei State Government officials on May 3 inaugurated facilities in Pibor County that were rehabilitated as part of USAID's efforts to strengthen county officials' authority and ability to respond to their constituents' needs, and to engage youth at risk of conflict in income-generating activities.

The facilities include the rehabilitated Pibor County headquarters (equipped with office furniture and communications equipment), finance office, and guesthouse, and a rehabilitated and fenced county airstrip. Through this project, local youth learned valuable construction trade skills, earned an income, and established a viable microenterprise. Jonglei State Governor Kuol Manyang and USAID/Sudan Mission Director William Hammink were on hand to inaugurate the facilities at a ribbon cutting ceremony.

USAID is also upgrading and expanding the Pibor Traditional Authorities Center and three catchment



Renovation of the Pibor Traditional Authorities Center, another of USAID's projects to strengthen local authorities as a way to help reduce conflict, is almost complete. Photo: Sarah Armstrong/USAID

dams in the county, which will increase available water resources and delay seasonal migrations that create tension between the Murle ethnic group and their neighbors over water.

To further strengthen the ability of local authorities to serve their constituents, USAID is installing three prefabricated payam headquarters in strategic and under-resourced payams in the county—Lekuangle, Gumuruk, and Boma payams.

Hamink complimented the youth on their leadership in building the foundation of peace in a volatile area. "Let us all recognize the hard work of the youth of Pibor who have made this day happen, as without these youth—the future of this county and country—none of these buildings that we celebrate today would have materialized. We celebrate these young people and the resiliency of the people of Pibor and Jonglei State. We applaud you," he said. ♦

Youth Block Making Training Program in Central Equatoria Handed Over to Government of Southern Sudan

USAID on May 17 handed over to the Government of Southern Sudan (GOSS) Bureau of Community Security and Small Arms Control (BCSSAC) the Youth Block Making Training Program in Juba, which is part of USAID's efforts to provide local

youth with training and opportunities for productive livelihoods.

At the handover ceremony, 35 youth—including two women—graduated from the training program. They will continue block making to earn an income, and train other youth, to expand the impact of the program.

"You will now be fighting the fight with your hands, not with bullets and guns," Minister for Public Service and Acting Governor of Central Equatoria State Stephen Lemi Lokuron told the youth at the event. "You have your independence, you fought for it, and now you must help to maintain it."

The BCSSAC was established as a core national component of the government's strategy to reduce conflict in southern Sudan, and is a key partner of USAID's conflict mitigation program. As southern Sudan approaches independence on July 9, one of its major challenges is to give young people opportunities to be productive members of society. BCSSAC is focusing on southern Sudan's greatest asset—its youth.

USAID has successfully trained youth in block making in conflict-prone areas, including Akobo and Pibor in Jonglei State, Nasir in Upper Nile State, Panyijar in Unity State, and Tonj East in Warrap State, and established the partnership with BCSSAC to bring the model to Juba and Central Equatoria State.

USAID Deputy Mission Director Susan Fine took part in the handover along with BCSSAC Chairman General Daniel Deng Lual and Ministry of Peace and CPA Implementation Undersecretary Beatrice Khamisa Wani. "This was an important project as it underscores General Deng's commitment to adopt this model and we stand ready to support him," Fine said. "We are proud of your achievement and your contribution to the future of soon-to-be independent South Sudan," she told the graduates. ♦



Soil block making equipment, left, gives youth the opportunity to learn a useful skill and earn an income. Photo: Sarah Armstrong/USAID



USAID, World Bank Launch Report Assessing Juba's Business Climate



USAID/Sudan Mission Director William Hammink (right) with Deputy Mission Director Susan Fine and Sandy Chellapermall (left) of the International Finance Corporation at the launch of the Doing Business in Juba report May 17. Photo: Sarah Armstrong/USAID

Representatives of USAID, the World Bank, the International Finance Corporation, and the Government of Southern Sudan (GOSS) on May 17 released the report *Doing Business in Juba 2011*, the first assessment of business regulations in southern Sudan's capital, which will become Africa's newest nation July 9.

Funded by USAID, the report focuses on nine areas that affect business operations—starting a business, dealing with construction permits, registering property, getting credit, protecting investors, paying taxes, trading across borders, enforcing contracts, and closing a business.

In comparison to 183 economies measured in the World Bank's *Doing Business* series, Juba ranks 159th in ease of doing business. Starting a business, dealing with construction permits, and registering property are relatively quick processes in Juba, according to the report.

Entrepreneurs can start a business in just 15 days, and while some gaps exist in commercial legislation, many core laws have been drafted, if not fully enacted. However, costs

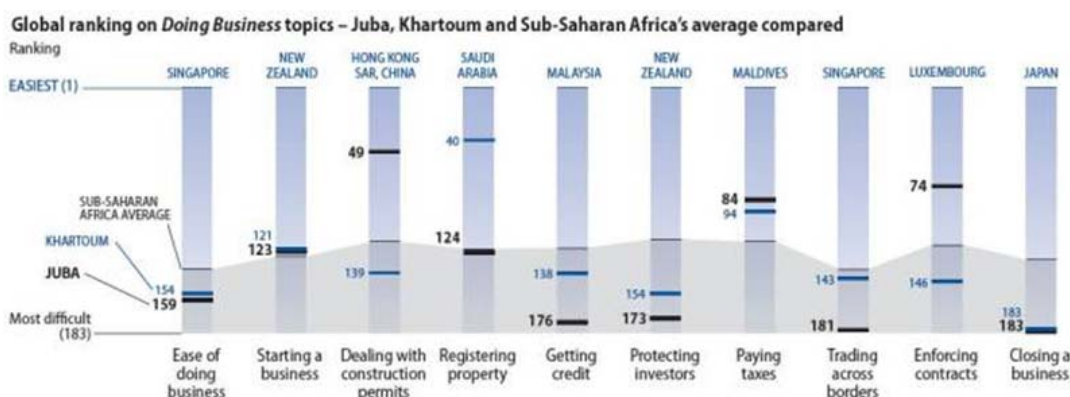
are high because of multiple fees to state and local authorities.

The report highlights progress that has been made on many fronts, including a Business Registry established in 2006 that the report noted is "efficient, well-staffed, and governed by clear guidelines." More than 11,000 businesses have signed up with the GOSS Business Registry since it was launched in 2006.

On trading across borders, Juba ranks 181st. Using the port of Mombasa in Kenya, an entrepreneur must complete 11 documents, wait 60 days and spend \$9,420 to import a container and nine documents, then 52 days and \$5,025 to export it. More than half of the delay is due to paperwork: to obtain a letter of credit, traders must first obtain an approval from the Bank of Southern Sudan to transfer funds abroad, which adds 22 days to the process.

The report identifies key areas for improvement. Juba's three different legal frameworks cause uncertainty and poor infrastructure and the complexity of administrative processes hamper trade. Access to credit is very limited and the lack of a collateral registry prevents entrepreneurs from using their assets as guarantees for loans.

"With the establishment of a new nation, South Sudan will have a unique opportunity to build a business climate that not only is competitive on a global scale, but a leader in Africa," said USAID/Sudan Mission Director William Hammink. "If South Sudan places a high priority on facilitating business activity, rapid progress is possible. USAID and other donors stand ready to assist with making needed reforms, but of course real change can only come through regulations and policies adopted and implemented by the government," he added. ♦





Southern Sudan Airwaves Spread News and School Lessons



USAID Administrator Rajiv Shah speaks with elementary school students who participated in a radio lesson at the SRS station in Juba May 7. Photo: SRS

During his visit to southern Sudan in May, USAID Administrator Rajiv Shah visited the Sudan Radio Service (SRS) in Juba to better understand the critical role of radio as a tool to expand citizen access to information in a largely underdeveloped region such as southern Sudan and to support teachers in providing basic and adult education through radio.

USAID-supported SRS has been on the air with shortwave broadcasts since July 2003, beginning with its coverage of peace negotiations that culminated in the Comprehensive Peace Agreement in 2005.

In addition to serving as a news source for southern Sudan, providing public access to critical independent information during this transition period for the citizens, SRS also provides educational services throughout southern Sudan's 10 states with instruction programs for children and adults.

During his visit to the SRS station, Administrator Shah observed how radio is used to deliver classroom lessons. Rainbow Primary School teacher Assunta Adiru, who came to the station with her students, conducted a short lesson on vocabulary and mathematics. The school tunes in to the radio daily to benefit from the 30-minute broadcast lesson.

Administrator Shah was interviewed live on air by SRS journalist Hellen Mangindo, who then hosted a live call-in session. Administrator Shah said during the session that "USAID is delighted to see the high level of interest in these programs and the fact that there is broad cooperation between SRS radio and the GOSS to support public communication and access to information."♦

U.S. Consulate, USAID Help Train Journalists in Juba, Wau through Young African Leaders Program

Voice of America (VOA) journalist Shaka Ssali hosted training sessions May 13-16 in Juba and Wau for journalism students and practicing journalists through the U.S. Department of State International Information Program speaker program.

Shaka Ssali, an American journalist born in Uganda and host of VOA's "Straight Talk Africa," was the first speaker to visit southern Sudan through this program. His visit was part of the Dialogue with Young African Leaders—a series of events held throughout Africa during the month of May to showcase the efforts of young African leaders, to engage with them in discussions about current challenges on the continent, and to help them discover ways to bring about positive change.



Journalist participants of the U.S. Government-sponsored journalism training, with USAID and U.S. Department of State staff. Photo: USAID

During the trainings, Ssali stressed the importance of accurate reporting, professionalism in journalism, and the critical role of free media in southern Sudan, which will become an independent nation July 9. More than 60 journalists participated in the workshops.♦